



WELS NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LUTHERAN LEADERSHIP

Breakout Summaries

Pages 1-12

Brief summaries of all breakout presentations

Pages 13-22

Groupings of suggested breakouts by topic/issue

For a more detailed description and presenter bios, please go to

lutheranleadership.com

BREAKOUT SUMMARIES

1 THE ART OF LISTENING AND ASKING QUESTIONS:

UNLOCKING THE HEART OF MINISTRY

This breakout will help participants face hard conversations with clarity and compassion. Participants will learn how to balance truth and kindness, receive feedback without defensiveness, and discover how honest dialogue strengthens relationships and ministry.

2 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE CHURCH:

EMBRACING TOOLS, AVOIDING TRAPS

This breakout will help participants evaluate the role of AI in ministry. Participants will explore practical uses and potential pitfalls, gaining a gospel-centered framework for using technology wisely and faithfully.

3 BEYOND CASH:

SMARTER WAYS GOD'S PEOPLE CAN GIVE

This breakout will show participants how to move beyond cash gifts in supporting ministry. Participants will learn about asset-based giving and tax-wise strategies that stretch generosity while blessing both giver and mission.

4 THE BUDGET IS THE PLAN:

ALIGNING STRATEGY, SPENDING, AND STEWARDSHIP

This breakout will guide participants in mission-minded budgeting. Participants will explore how to turn numbers into ministry priorities, simplify decisions, and strengthen financial stewardship for the sake of the gospel.

5 BUILDING A COHESIVE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM:

LEADING TOGETHER IN LUTHERAN EDUCATION

This breakout will help participants clarify leadership roles within schools. Participants will explore practical models of teamwork, communication, and accountability that strengthen unity across pastors, principals, directors, and lay leaders.

6 BUILDING A CULTURE OF OUTREACH:

A GAME PLAN FOR EVERY WELS CHURCH

This breakout will help participants make outreach natural in congregational life. Participants will discover how to inspire members, create sustainable practices, and shape a culture where sharing Christ is joyful and expected.

7 CLARIFYING CLERGY AND LAY ROLES:

LEADING TOGETHER IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

This breakout will help participants clarify the complementary roles of pastors and lay leaders. Participants will explore how shared leadership prevents burnout, builds trust, and strengthens ministry by aligning responsibilities with Spirit-given gifts in both small and large congregations.

8 COME AND SEE:

PLANNING WORSHIP SO MEMBERS WILL INVITE GUESTS

This breakout will help participants design worship services that are rich in Word and sacrament yet accessible to newcomers. Participants will identify barriers and explore planning practices that lead members to confidently invite guests to their church.

9 COMMUNICATING YOUR MISSION WITH CLARITY:

BRANDING, MESSAGING, AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION

This breakout will help participants refine how their ministry tells its story. Participants will explore branding, messaging, and storytelling that clarify identity, connect with community, and unify communication across all audiences in ways that are compelling and Christ-centered.

10 COUNTING WHAT COUNTS:

GOALS, METRICS, AND THE SPIRIT'S WORK

This breakout will help participants approach ministry metrics faithfully and wisely. Participants will discover how to use goals and metrics as tools for accountability and focus while leaving true outcomes in God's gracious hands.

11 DEVELOPING A CLEAR PATH OF DISCIPLESHIP:

A PROVEN PROCESS FOR CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

This breakout will help participants create a framework for guiding people into deeper faith and service. Participants will explore flexible strategies that align ministries into a unified path, building consistent engagement and a stronger leadership pipeline.

12 DIGITAL OUTREACH IN A POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD:

SUPPORTING RELATIONAL EVANGELISM WITHOUT REPLACING IT

This breakout will help participants rethink digital outreach as a bridge to real conversations. Participants will learn how to create meaningful online touchpoints that support personal witness and lead naturally into Christ-centered relationships.

13 THE EMOTIONALLY INTELLIGENT LEADER:

MANAGING YOURSELF TO LEAD OTHERS

This breakout will help participants explore how emotional intelligence shapes healthy leadership. Participants will learn practical tools for self-awareness and self-regulation that foster trust and strengthen relationships in church, school, and home.

14 FAITH FORMATION IN SCHOOLS THAT STICKS:

BUILDING A LUTHERAN WORLDVIEW IN THE NEXT GENERATION

This breakout will help participants address the challenge of graduates leaving the church. Participants will explore how curriculum, culture, and teacher modeling can instill a Lutheran worldview that shapes both knowledge and values for lifelong discipleship.

15 FAITHFUL AND FUNDED:

RETHINKING HOW WE SUPPORT LUTHERAN SCHOOLS

This breakout will help participants rethink sustainable funding models for Lutheran education. Participants will explore tuition strategies that balance affordability with sustainability while keeping Christian education a shared mission and spiritual responsibility.

16 THE FAMILY ALTAR:

EMPOWERING HOMES AS THE PRIMARY PLACE OF YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP

This breakout will help participants equip parents as primary disciplers of their children. Participants will explore tools for devotions, prayer, and faith conversations, fostering Christ-centered homes where discipleship naturally becomes part of daily life.

17 FEEDBACK AND THE PULPIT:

TURNING POLITE PRAISE INTO MEANINGFUL INSIGHTS

This breakout will help participants build healthier feedback practices for preaching. Participants will learn how loving, honest feedback strengthens gospel clarity, benefits both preachers and hearers, and fosters deeper listening within the congregation.

18 THE FOCUS TAX:

HOW MUCH ARE YOU PAYING?

This breakout will help participants identify the hidden costs of distraction. Participants will practice strategies to reclaim focus, reduce wasted energy, and increase ministry impact through intentional time and attention management.

19 THE FORGOTTEN GENERATION:

MINISTERING TO YOUNG ADULTS IN THEIR 20s

This breakout will help participants understand why young adults often drift from church. Participants will discover ways to create relational entry points, foster ownership of faith, and make church a welcoming spiritual home for this oft-overlooked group.

20 FREELY GIVEN, FREELY GIVE:

BUILDING A CULTURE OF GOSPEL-DRIVEN GENEROSITY

This breakout will help participants cultivate generosity as a joyful gospel response. Participants will learn how to teach and model generosity, communicate financial needs transparently, and foster a culture where offerings flow freely as fruits of God's abundant grace.

21 FROM 20/80 TO 100 PERCENT:

BREAKING THE VOLUNTEER BOTTLENECK

This breakout will help participants move beyond the 20/80 volunteer rule, where 20 percent of members do 80 percent of the work. Participants will learn how to identify barriers and inspire more members to use their gifts, creating Spirit-driven abundance in congregational service.

22 FROM BULLETIN TO BROADCAST:

MODERNIZING CHURCH COMMUNICATION WITHOUT LOSING ANYONE

This breakout will help participants build a clear communication strategy that actually reaches people. Participants will explore multi-channel tools, best practices, and simple adjustments that move beyond bulletins and announcements without leaving older generations behind.

23 FROM *CHRISTIAN WORSHIP TO THE FOUNDATION*:

PLANNING SMARTER, LEADING BETTER

This breakout will help participants integrate the comprehensive suite of WELS tools for worship and outreach. Participants will explore how the utilization of these resources saves precious ministry time while still achieving excellence in these key ministry efforts.

24 FROM ENROLLMENT TO ENGAGEMENT:

MAKING YOUR SCHOOL A TRUE EVANGELISM EFFORT

This breakout will help participants evaluate whether their school ministry functions as true outreach. Participants will learn intentional strategies for engaging non-member school parents, making school ministry an effective bridge to membership.

25 FROM ORGANIC TO ORGANIZED:

HOW LEADERSHIP AND OPERATIONS MUST EVOLVE AS CHURCHES GROW

This breakout will help participants understand when churches need structural change. Participants will explore how to clarify authority, streamline decisions, and build needed ministry systems—avoiding burnout and keeping mission central.

26 FROM SOCIAL CIRCLES TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH:

SMALL GROUPS THAT MAKE DISCIPLES, NOT JUST FRIENDS

This breakout will help participants strengthen small group ministry for deeper discipleship. Participants will learn how to shape groups around the Word, train leaders, and build a multiplying culture where authentic relationships drive lasting spiritual formation.

27 FROM TALK TO TRACTION:

MAKING ALL MINISTRY TEAMS MORE EFFECTIVE

This breakout will help participants transform meetings into mission-focused tools. Participants will learn strategies for clearer agendas, shared responsibility, and effective follow-up, equipping ministry teams to shift from passive dialogue to active gospel-driven results.

28 GOSPEL CONVERSATIONS IN THE LGBTQ WORLD:

MEETING IMPOSSIBLE STANDARDS WITH THE GRACE OF CHRIST

This breakout will help participants engage in conversations on sexuality and gender that feel impossible. Participants will explore how to hold to God's design while reflecting Christ's love—listening with humility and sharing law and gospel with compassion.

29 THE GRACE TO LEAD CHANGE WELL:

NAVIGATING TRANSITION WITHOUT LOSING MISSION OR PEOPLE

This breakout will help participants lead change with courage, compassion, and clarity. Participants will learn biblical and practical tools for overcoming resistance, rallying teams, and sustaining mission focus during seasons of transition.

30 THE GREAT COMMISSION IN LUTHERAN SCHOOLS:

NURTURE, OUTREACH, AND SCHOOL GROWTH

This breakout will help participants wrestle with balancing school growth and Lutheran identity. Participants will explore strategies for outreach and nurture, ensuring that enrollment expansion strengthens rather than weakens the mission of Lutheran education.

31 HEARING IT STRAIGHT FROM TODAY'S YOUTH:

A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF WELS YOUNG PEOPLE

This breakout will help participants hear directly from today's WELS youth through survey research. Participants will gain insights into how young people view faith, the church, and the gospel, shaping more thoughtful youth discipleship strategies.

32 HOPE FOR THE CHALLENGED CHURCH:

DIAGNOSING DECLINE AND CHARTING A PATH FORWARD

This two-session breakout will help participants navigate seasons of congregational decline with clarity and hope. Participants will learn how to diagnose the status of their congregation and chart practical next steps toward ministry redevelopment and revitalization.

33 HOSPITALITY BOOTCAMP:

EVANGELISM IN ACTION

This breakout will help participants embrace hospitality as mission, not entertainment. Participants will explore how authentic welcome, shared meals, and daily rhythms can create opportunities for gospel conversations in a post-Christian culture.

34 THE LAWSUIT YOU DIDN'T SEE COMING:

BUILDING A LEGALLY RESILIENT SCHOOL

This breakout will help participants recognize legal blind spots in school and church ministry. Participants will consider discipline, reporting, and documentation practices that reduce risk, honor trust, and strengthen Christ-centered education before crises emerge.

35 LEADERSHIP AS INFLUENCE:

SHAPING CULTURE AND LIVES WITHOUT A TITLE

This breakout will help participants see how leadership flows from influence, not position. Participants will explore how character, presence, and encouragement shape congregational culture and strengthen ministry impact—even without formal titles.

36 LEADING WITH CONSENSUS IN YOUR CHURCH:

FROM VOTES TO VOICES

This breakout will help participants explore consensus-based decision-making as a way to build unity and trust. Participants will learn how to facilitate meaningful discussions, honor diverse voices, and guide groups toward shared conclusions that strengthen ministry.

37 A LEGACY OF LOVE:

INSPIRING GENEROSITY THAT ENDURES BEYOND THIS LIFE

This breakout will help participants inspire faithful members to continue supporting ministry beyond this life. Participants will explore legacy giving, bequests, and gratitude practices that connect generosity with mission and keep proclaiming Christ for generations.

38 A LUTHERAN LENS ON MODERN HYMNODY:

EVALUATING THE THEOLOGY, USE, AND IMPACT OF MODERN HYMNS

This breakout will help participants evaluate modern hymnody through a Lutheran lens. Participants will examine theological clarity, congregational singability, and liturgical function to decide how best to use these hymns in their worship context.

39 MINISTERING TO SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE:

COMPASSION, CARE, AND CHRIST

This breakout will help participants address the often-hidden wounds of sexual abuse in the church. Participants will learn how to listen, provide gospel hope, and walk patiently with survivors while discerning when professional care is needed.

40 MINISTERING TO AN AGING CONGREGATION:

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY!

This breakout will help participants respond to the realities of an aging church. Participants will explore meaningful ministry for seniors while considering ways to welcome younger members, aligning strategy with capacity, community, and gospel mission.

41 ON THE CLOCK, STILL ON MISSION:

FOLLOWING CHRIST AT WORK

This breakout will help participants follow Christ faithfully in their daily work. Participants will discover how discipleship shapes excellence, character, and witness in the workplace, equipping them to serve with wisdom and courage on the job.

42 ONE GOSPEL, MANY PEOPLES:

READINESS FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH

This breakout will help participants prepare for cross-cultural ministry in their own neighborhoods. Participants will explore barriers and opportunities in welcoming diverse peoples while staying rooted in God's Word and gospel unity.

43 OUR CONFESSIONAL LUTHERAN IDENTITY:

DOCTRINE, PRACTICE, AND A DISTINCT GOSPEL WITNESS

This breakout will help participants reflect on what it means to be confessional Lutherans. Participants will explore how doctrine shapes practice, ensuring a gospel witness that is both authentically Lutheran and joyfully evangelical.

44 PLANNING THAT WORKS:

STRATEGIC, TACTICAL, AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING

This breakout will help participants design plans that actually work. Participants will explore how to integrate big-picture goals with practical steps, involving the right people and adjusting with flexibility while keeping mission central.

45 POLITICS IN THE PEWS:

LIVING IN TWO KINGDOMS

This breakout will help participants apply two-kingdom theology in today's polarized culture. Participants will explore how to proclaim the gospel faithfully, avoid partisan pitfalls, and speak truth with love in a divided society.

46 THE PORN PANDEMIC IN OUR PEWS:

HOW PORNOGRAPHY IS QUIETLY DISCIPLING OUR MEMBERS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

This breakout will help participants confront pornography as a discipleship issue in the church. Participants will explore strategies for teaching, confession, accountability, and resources that foster gospel-driven healing instead of shame.

47 THE POWER OF DEEP CONNECTION:

ENGAGING WOMEN BY DESIGN

This breakout will help participants cultivate authentic connections among women. Participants will explore how intentional prayer, shared stories, and mutual encouragement create Christian sisterhood that refreshes spirits and equips women for lasting kingdom impact.

48 PREPARED TO GIVE AN ANSWER:

WEAVING APOLOGETICS INTO EVERYDAY MINISTRY

This breakout will help participants integrate apologetics into regular and current ministry efforts. Participants will explore how to equip believers of all ages to answer challenges with clarity, confidence, and gentleness while pointing people to Christ.

49 PROBLEM-SOLVING AS CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP:

BALANCING FAITH, WISDOM, AND ACTION

This breakout will help participants tackle ministry problems constructively. Participants will explore biblical and practical processes for identifying issues, weighing options, and acting decisively while protecting relationships and keeping Christ's mission central.

50 THE QUIET RETURN:

GEN Z MEN'S RENEWED INTEREST IN CHRISTIANITY

This breakout will help participants engage Gen Z men with the gospel. Participants will learn how mentorship, clear teaching, and meaningful service opportunities can disciple young men seeking identity, stability, and authentic Christian community.

51 RAISING A CHRIST-CENTERED CHILD IN A ME-CENTERED WORLD:

PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR PARENTS AND CHURCH LEADERS

This breakout will help participants nurture Christ-centered children amid cultural pressures. Participants will discover how to guide faith conversations, set healthy boundaries, and root young hearts in Christ through homes, churches, and schools.

52 RAISING THE BAR:

A CULTURE OF HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR DISCIPLESHIP

This breakout will help participants recapture a biblical vision for discipleship. Participants will explore how raising expectations leads to deeper engagement, stronger witness, and congregations where all believers see themselves as part of Christ's mission.

53 RETHINKING EVANGELISM:

WHY YESTERDAY'S METHODS MISS TODAY'S HEARTS

This breakout will help participants rethink evangelism in a post-Christian culture. Participants will learn how to move beyond outdated tools, embrace personal witness, and build bridges where neighbors actually live, offering the gospel with clarity and love.

54 SACRAMENTAL IDENTITY FOR TODAY'S CHURCH:

TIMELESS GIFTS FOR OUR TIME IN HISTORY

This breakout will help participants highlight the sacraments as God's supernatural gifts. Participants will consider how baptismal remembrance and reverent Communion practice communicate God's presence, strengthening members while inviting seekers to encounter Christ's grace and truth.

55 SCREENS AND SOULS:

HELPING MEMBERS UNDERSTAND THE SPIRITUAL IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY

This breakout will help participants reflect on how smartphones and digital habits shape discipleship. Participants will explore the risks of distraction and comparison as well as faithful ways to use technology for prayer, worship, and encouragement.

56 SERVANT LEADERS:

YOUNG ADULTS MODELING CHRIST'S WAY

This breakout will help participants be encouraged by a panel discussion with young adults modeling Christlike leadership. Participants will listen to honest reflections on challenges, joys, and practical ways to lead by serving in homes, workplaces, and congregations.

57 SERVING THE UNDERSERVED:

REACHING AND DISCIPLING PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

This breakout will help participants make congregations more welcoming for people with special needs. Participants will explore theological grounding, compassionate care, and practical strategies for worship, discipleship, and family support that reflect Christ's heart.

58 SHADOW OF THE LEADER:

USING THE CULTURE CHANGE COURSE MAP

This breakout will help participants influence congregational culture with intentionality. Participants will learn how to recognize unhealthy patterns, model better behaviors, and design a step-by-step course map for change that aligns with gospel mission.

59 SMALL CHURCH, BIG MISSION:

MAKING A KINGDOM IMPACT WITH LIMITED RESOURCES

This breakout will help participants embrace the strengths of small churches. Participants will learn strategies for focus, outreach, and discipleship that maximize limited resources, showing how small congregations can make a big gospel impact.

60 STAFFING FOR MISSION:

WHEN TO ADD STAFF AND HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT ROLE

This breakout will help participants make mission-driven staffing decisions. Participants will explore how to assess ministry needs, distinguish between called and hired roles, and avoid common pitfalls while creating clarity, sustainability, and alignment in staffing choices.

61 UNSTUCK:

BREAKING GROWTH BARRIERS WITH COURAGE, CLARITY, AND CALLING

This breakout will help participants break through ministry plateaus with renewed focus. Participants will explore how to clarify direction, equip lay leaders, and address hidden barriers that hold congregations back from faithful growth and gospel impact.

62 USING COMMUNITY SERVICE:

TO MAXIMIZE THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL

This breakout will help participants rethink community service as relational evangelism. Participants will explore how to move from random acts of kindness to intentional opportunities for witness, equipping churches to serve with compassion and gospel readiness.

63 VISION THAT INSPIRES SERVICE:

COMMUNICATING A CHRIST-CENTERED FUTURE IN WAYS THAT MOVE GOD’S PEOPLE TO ACTION

This breakout will help participants understand what “vision” is and how it can motivate action. Participants will explore how Word-shaped vision strengthens unity, directs energy, and equips churches and schools to pursue Christ-honoring goals with confidence and shared purpose.

64 THE WEIGHT AND THE WONDER:

DEALING WITH GUILT IN MINISTRY

This breakout will help participants process the guilt leaders often carry when ministry feels fruitless. Participants will reflect on responsibility, rest in gospel comfort, and find renewed perspective in Christ’s faithfulness rather than outcomes.

65 WIRED DIFFERENTLY:

UNDERSTANDING PERSONALITIES TO STRENGTHEN MINISTRY TEAMS

This breakout will help participants understand how personality differences shape teamwork. Participants will learn how to adapt communication, reduce conflict, and see diverse wiring as God-given gifts for building unity and effectiveness in ministry.

66 WOMEN TEACHING WOMEN:

FROM LEARNERS TO LEADERS

This breakout will help participants equip women to teach God’s Word faithfully to other women. Participants will learn how to design engaging Bible studies, foster relational learning, and lead discussions that connect Scripture to life.

67 YOUNG WOMEN IN WELS:

UNDERSTANDING THE CRISIS AND BUILDING CONNECTIONS

This breakout will help participants address why young women are leaving church life. Participants will learn how to build trust, provide mentorship, and create spaces where young women feel heard, valued, and rooted in biblical identity.

68 YOUR CHURCH'S STORY:

PRESERVING HISTORY WITH PURPOSE

This breakout will help participants see church history as testimony to God's faithfulness. Participants will learn practical ways to collect, preserve, and share stories that strengthen identity, discipleship, and mission.

69 THE FUTURE OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD:

ONE LCMS DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

This breakout will share a firsthand perspective from an LCMS district president on the pressing issues and future direction of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Participants will gain insight into how the LCMS' challenges and opportunities intersect with WELS and what lessons might guide faithful ministry planning today.

TOPICS/ISSUES

Attendees are allowed to select any breakouts they believe would be interesting and beneficial. Some attendees will select breakouts that touch on a variety of topics and issues. Others may want to focus on one topic, learning as much as possible from several breakouts.

If a congregation sends multiple attendees to the WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership, consider assigning each one a topic or issue. Those attendees can report back to their congregations, perhaps using what they learned to provide recommendations for congregational ministry efforts.

Below you will find breakouts that deal directly with a specific topic or issue. A brief summary of those breakouts is provided on the previous pages of this document. More complete breakout descriptions and presenter biographies are available at lutheranleadership.com.

CALLED WORKERS

Those who serve in public ministry carry both profound privilege and heavy responsibility. Called workers navigate expectations from their congregations, schools, and communities—while also caring for their own spiritual and emotional health. At the same time, the relationship between called workers and lay leaders can be a source of great strength or great strain. These breakouts give space to explore the unique pressures on called workers, the importance of healthy collaboration with laity, and the support systems needed to help them thrive in long-term ministry.

- 7 – Clarifying Clergy and Lay Roles: Leading Together in the Life of the Church
- 13 – The Emotionally Intelligent Leader: Managing Yourself to Lead Others
- 17 – Feedback and the Pulpit: Turning Polite Praise into Meaningful Insights
- 18 – The Focus Tax: How Much Are You Paying?
- 32 – Hope for the Challenged Church: Diagnosing Decline and Charting a Path Forward
- 45 – Politics in the Pews: Living in Two Kingdoms
- 49 – Problem-Solving as Christian Leadership: Balancing Faith, Wisdom, and Action
- 64 – The Weight and the Wonder: Dealing with Guilt in Ministry
- 65 – Wired Differently: Understanding Personalities to Strengthen Ministry Teams

CHALLENGED CONGREGATIONS

Some congregations today are wrestling with sobering realities: declining attendance, aging membership, shrinking finances, and uncertainty about their future. For some, these challenges feel overwhelming. Members wonder if survival is impossible. These breakouts are designed for leaders in challenged churches who are asking hard questions about sustainability, mission, and the path forward. They offer biblical encouragement, honest assessment tools, and practical strategies that can help leaders discern a path forward.

- 6 – Building a Culture of Outreach: A Game Plan for Every WELS Church
- 8 – Come and See: Planning Worship so Members Will Invite Guests
- 20 – Freely Given, Freely Give: Building a Culture of Gospel-Driven Generosity
- 21 – From 20/80 to 100 Percent: Breaking the Volunteer Bottleneck
- 32 – Hope for the Challenged Church: Diagnosing Decline and Charting a Path Forward

- 40 – Ministering to an Aging Congregation: A Golden Opportunity!
- 53 – Rethinking Evangelism: Why Yesterday’s Methods Miss Today’s Hearts
- 58 – Shadow of the Leader: Using the Culture Change Course Map
- 59 – Small Church, Big Mission: Making a Kingdom Impact with Limited Resources
- 61 – Unstuck: Breaking Growth Barriers with Courage, Clarity, and Calling

COMMUNICATION

Clear communication is vital for healthy congregational life. Without it, even the best ideas can stall. In today’s noisy world, churches must learn how to tell their story well—both internally among members and externally to their community. Effective communication builds trust and unites teams, serving the mission. These breakouts equip leaders to communicate, connecting with people in ways that inspire confidence and participation.

- 1 – The Art of Listening and Asking Questions: Unlocking the Heart of Ministry
- 9 – Communicating Your Mission with Clarity: Branding, Messaging, and Community Connection
- 22 – From Bulletin to Broadcast: Modernizing Church Communication Without Losing Anyone
- 29 – The Grace to Lead Change Well: Navigating Transition Without Losing Mission or People
- 36 – Leading with Consensus in Your Church: From Votes to Voices
- 58 – Shadow of the Leader: Using the Culture Change Course Map
- 63 – Vision that Inspires Service: Communicating a Christ-Centered Future in Ways that Move God’s People to Action

COMMUNITY, CHRISTIAN

Increasingly, people are looking for their church to be not only a place they are fed spiritually but also where the Spirit knits members together in a true Christian family. This is especially true of young members, who are looking to be known, supported, and encouraged. Congregations that foster genuine community can become places of belonging, healing, and accountability—where discipleship takes root in relationships, not just programs. These breakouts focus on building that kind of culture: moving members beyond passive attendance to active life together in Christ.

- 19 – The Forgotten Generation: Ministry to Young Adults in Their 20s
- 26 – From Social Circles to Spiritual Growth: Small Groups that Make Disciples, Not Just Friends
- 31 – Hearing It Straight from Today’s Youth: A Comprehensive Study of WELS Young People
- 33 – Hospitality Bootcamp: Evangelism in Action
- 42 – One Gospel, Many Peoples: Readiness for Cultural Diversity in the Church
- 47 – The Power of Deep Connection: Engaging Women by Design
- 50 – The Quiet Return: Gen Z Men’s Renewed Interest in Christianity
- 52 – Raising the Bar: A Culture of High Expectations for Discipleship
- 53 – Rethinking Evangelism: Why Yesterday’s Methods Miss Today’s Hearts
- 54 – Sacramental Identity for Today’s Church: Timeless Gifts for Our Time in History
- 57 – Serving the Underserved: Reaching and Discipling People with Special Needs
- 59 – Small Church, Big Mission: Making a Kingdom Impact with Limited Resources
- 67 – Young Women in WELS: Understanding the Crisis and Building Connections

CULTURE, CONGREGATIONAL

The most important component of congregational health: that everything the congregation does is built upon the foundation of God's Word. The second most important component of congregational health? Culture. Culture is the shared thought habits that frame the way a group of people behave and work. Congregational culture consists of things like assumptions, traditions, values, habits, unwritten ground rules, organizational structure, etc. A healthy congregational culture enables our best ministry efforts. The following breakouts deal with congregational culture in various ways.

- 5 – Building a Cohesive School Leadership Team: Leading Together in Lutheran Education
- 6 – Building a Culture of Outreach: A Game Plan for Every WELS Church
- 7 – Clarifying Clergy and Lay Roles: Leading Together in the Life of the Church
- 22 – From Bulletin to Broadcast: Modernizing Church Communication Without Losing Anyone
- 25 – From Organic to Organized: How Leadership and Operations Must Evolve as Churches Grow
- 35 – Leadership as Influence: Shaping Culture and Lives Without a Title
- 36 – Leading with Consensus in Your Church: From Votes to Voices
- 42 – One Gospel, Many Peoples: Readiness for Cultural Diversity in the Church
- 43 – Our Confessional Lutheran Identity: Doctrine, Practice, and a Distinct Gospel Witness
- 54 – Sacramental Identity for Today's Church: Timeless Gifts for Our Time in History
- 58 – Shadow of the Leader: Using the Culture Change Course Map
- 61 – Unstuck: Breaking Growth Barriers with Courage, Clarity, and Calling
- 68 – Your Church's Story: Preserving History with Purpose
- 69 – The Future of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod: One LCMS District President's Perspective

CULTURE, SOCIETAL

Think of how much American culture has shifted in one generation. Marriage and fertility rates have dropped sharply. Polarization has deepened. Societal distrust in institutions is at all-time highs. And the fastest growing religious demographic is the "nones," i.e., those who claim no religious affiliation. This is evidenced by the fact there are almost no Christian church bodies in America that are growing. This affects how we think about our ministry strategies. The following breakouts touch on some societal cultural issues with which our churches must engage.

- 2 – Artificial Intelligence and the Church: Embracing Tools, Avoiding Traps
- 16 – The Family Altar: Empowering Homes as the Primary Place of Youth Discipleship
- 28 – Gospel Conversations in the LGBTQ World: Meeting Impossible Standards with the Grace of Christ
- 31 – Hearing It Straight from Today's Youth: A Comprehensive Study of WELS Young People
- 34 – The Lawsuit You Didn't See Coming: Building a Legally Resilient School
- 39 – Ministering to Survivors of Sexual Abuse: Compassion, Care, and Christ
- 41 – On the Clock, Still on Mission: Following Christ at Work
- 45 – Politics in the Pews: Living in Two Kingdoms
- 46 – The Porn Pandemic in Our Pews: How Pornography Is Quietly Discipling Our Members and What to Do About It
- 55 – Screens and Souls: Helping Members Understand the Spiritual Impact of Technology

DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship is the lifelong journey of following Jesus, being formed by his Word, and growing in love and service of God and neighbor. The following breakouts all deal with such discipleship efforts. Some discuss discipleship broadly. Others deal with discipleship within a specific demographic.

- 11 – Developing a Clear Path of Discipleship: A Proven Process for Congregational Membership and Leadership Development
- 14 – Faith Formation in Schools that Sticks: Building a Lutheran Worldview in the Next Generation
- 16 – The Family Altar: Empowering Homes as the Primary Place of Youth Discipleship
- 19 – The Forgotten Generation: Ministry to Young Adults in Their 20s
- 26 – From Social Circles to Spiritual Growth: Small Groups that Make Disciples, Not Just Friends
- 28 – Gospel Conversations in the LGBTQ World: Meeting Impossible Standards with the Grace of Christ
- 30 – The Great Commission in Lutheran Schools: Nurture, Outreach, and School Growth
- 43 – Our Confessional Lutheran Identity: Doctrine, Practice, and a Distinct Gospel Witness
- 46 – The Porn Pandemic in Our Pews: How Pornography Is Quietly Discipling Our Members and What to Do About It
- 47 – The Power of Deep Connection: Engaging Women by Design
- 50 – The Quiet Return: Gen Z Men’s Renewed Interest in Christianity
- 51 – Raising a Christ-Centered Child in a Me-Centered World: Practical Tools for Parents and Church Leaders
- 52 – Raising the Bar: A Culture of High Expectations for Discipleship
- 54 – Sacramental Identity for Today’s Church: Timeless Gifts for Our Time in History
- 55 – Screens and Souls: Helping Members Understand the Spiritual Impact of Technology
- 57 – Serving the Underserved: Reaching and Discipling People with Special Needs
- 66 – Women Teaching Women: From Learners to Leaders
- 67 – Young Women in WELS: Understanding the Crisis and Building Connections

EVANGELISM

In a sense, everything your congregation does can serve evangelism. For example, well-done worship can present the gospel to unchurched guests. That’s evangelism. A well-run school is attractive to parents. That can allow for evangelism. The following breakouts are ones that deal *directly* with evangelism: congregational outreach efforts, the effort to equip members for personal witnessing, etc.

- 6 – Building a Culture of Outreach: A Game Plan for Every WELS Church
- 8 – Come and See: Planning Worship so Members Will Invite Guests
- 12 – Digital Outreach in a Post-Christian World: Supporting Relational Evangelism Without Replacing It
- 24 – From Enrollment to Engagement: Making Your School a True Evangelism Effort
- 30 – The Great Commission in Lutheran Schools: Nurture, Outreach, and School Growth
- 33 – Hospitality Bootcamp: Evangelism in Action
- 42 – One Gospel, Many Peoples: Readiness for Cultural Diversity in the Church
- 48 – Prepared to Give an Answer: Weaving Apologetics into Everyday Ministry
- 50 – The Quiet Return: Gen Z Men’s Renewed Interest in Christianity
- 53 – Rethinking Evangelism: Why Yesterday’s Methods Miss Today’s Hearts
- 57 – Serving the Underserved: Reaching and Discipling People with Special Needs
- 62 – Using Community Service to Maximize the Spread of the Gospel

FINANCES/STEWARDSHIP

Congregations that handle finances wisely not only sustain their mission but also build trust and inspire confidence among members. Stewardship, however, is more than balancing budgets. It's about cultivating a gospel-driven spirit of generosity, aligning financial decisions with mission priorities, and planning responsibly for the future. These breakouts equip church and school leaders with tools to strengthen financial practices, explore new funding models, and nurture a culture where giving flows not from guilt or obligation but from gratitude for Christ's grace.

- 3 – Beyond Cash: Smarter Ways God's People Can Give
- 4 – The Budget Is the Plan: Aligning Strategy, Spending, and Stewardship
- 10 – Counting What Counts: Goals, Metrics, and the Spirit's Work
- 15 – Faithful and Funded: Rethinking How We Support Lutheran Schools
- 20 – Freely Given, Freely Give: Building a Culture of Gospel-Driven Generosity
- 21 – From 20/80 to 100 Percent: Breaking the Volunteer Bottleneck
- 37 – A Legacy of Love: Inspiring Generosity that Endures Beyond This Life
- 59 – Small Church, Big Mission: Making a Kingdom Impact with Limited Resources

HERITAGE

This is not a generic Christian leadership conference. It is a conference for confessional Lutherans, rooted in the treasures of faith handed down by our forefathers. Our heritage grounds us in the gospel and gives us clarity for ministry in today's world. These breakouts remind us who we are as Lutherans—anchored in Word and sacrament, shaped by our confession, and called to carry forward what has been entrusted to us. They highlight the theological and cultural distinctives that shape our witness as the Lutheran church.

- 14 – Faith Formation in Schools that Sticks: Building a Lutheran Worldview in the Next Generation
- 23 – From *Christian Worship* to *The Foundation*: Planning Smarter, Leading Better
- 30 – The Great Commission in Lutheran Schools: Nurture, Outreach, and School Growth
- 38 – A Lutheran Lens on Modern Hymnody: Evaluating the Theology, Use, and Impact of Modern Hymns
- 43 – Our Confessional Lutheran Identity: Doctrine, Practice, and a Distinct Gospel Witness
- 54 – Sacramental Identity for Today's Church: Timeless Gifts for Our Time in History
- 68 – Your Church's Story: Preserving History with Purpose
- 69 – The Future of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod: One LCMS District President's Perspective

LEADERSHIP/MANAGEMENT

Healthy congregations need leaders who keep the focus on mission and inspire others. Congregations also need good management that ensures clarity of roles, healthy culture, and sustainable ministry systems. Neither leadership nor management in the church is about control or power but about stewardship—guiding people and resources in service to Christ. These breakouts will help participants see the need for both leadership and management and lay out best practices for both.

- 1 – The Art of Listening and Asking Questions: Unlocking the Heart of Ministry
- 2 – Artificial Intelligence and the Church: Embracing Tools, Avoiding Traps
- 5 – Building a Cohesive School Leadership Team: Leading Together in Lutheran Education
- 7 – Clarifying Clergy and Lay Roles: Leading Together in the Life of the Church
- 9 – Communicating Your Mission with Clarity: Branding, Messaging, and Community Connection

- 10 – Counting What Counts: Goals, Metrics, and the Spirit’s Work
- 11 – Developing a Clear Path of Discipleship: A Proven Process for Congregational Membership and Leadership Development
- 13 – The Emotionally Intelligent Leader: Managing Yourself to Lead Others
- 18 – The Focus Tax: How Much Are You Paying?
- 21 – From 20/80 to 100 Percent: Breaking the Volunteer Bottleneck
- 25 – From Organic to Organized: How Leadership and Operations Must Evolve as Churches Grow
- 27 – From Talk to Traction: Making All Ministry Teams More Effective
- 29 – The Grace to Lead Change Well: Navigating Transition Without Losing Mission or People
- 35 – Leadership as Influence: Shaping Culture and Lives Without a Title
- 36 – Leading with Consensus in Your Church: From Votes to Voices
- 44 – Planning that Works: Strategic, Tactical, and Operational Planning
- 49 – Problem-Solving as Christian Leadership: Balancing Faith, Wisdom, and Action
- 56 – Servant Leaders: Young Adults Modeling Christ’s Way
- 58 – Shadow of the Leader: Using the Culture Change Course Map
- 60 – Staffing for Mission: When to Add Staff and How to Choose the Right Role
- 63 – Vision that Inspires Service: Communicating a Christ-Centered Future in Ways that Move God’s People to Action
- 64 – The Weight and the Wonder: Dealing with Guilt in Ministry
- 65 – Wired Differently: Understanding Personalities to Strengthen Ministry Teams

MEN

Today’s cultural shifts and generational dynamics can mean that men either disengage from congregational life or struggle to see how their faith connects with everyday responsibilities. These breakouts include topics especially relevant as congregations seek to minister to men.

- 11 – Developing a Clear Path of Discipleship: A Proven Process for Congregational Membership and Leadership Development
- 16 – The Family Altar: Empowering Homes as the Primary Place of Youth Discipleship
- 26 – From Social Circles to Spiritual Growth: Small Groups That Make Disciples, Not Just Friends
- 39 – Ministering to Survivors of Sexual Abuse: Compassion, Care, and Christ
- 41 – On the Clock, Still on Mission: Following Christ at Work
- 45 – Politics in the Pews: Living in Two Kingdoms
- 46 – The Porn Pandemic in Our Pews: How Pornography Is Quietly Discipling Our Members
- 50 – The Quiet Return: Gen Z Men’s Renewed Interest in Christianity
- 51 – Raising a Christ-Centered Child in a Me-Centered World: Practical Tools for Parents and Church Leaders
- 52 – Raising the Bar: A Culture of High Expectations for Discipleship
- 64 – The Weight and the Wonder: Dealing with Guilt in Ministry

PLANNING

Congregations that plan well are better equipped to carry out their mission with clarity and confidence. Planning helps leaders align resources, establish priorities, and prepare for future opportunities and challenges. These breakouts address different aspects of congregational planning.

- 2 – Artificial Intelligence and the Church: Embracing Tools, Avoiding Traps
- 4 – The Budget Is the Plan: Aligning Strategy, Spending, and Stewardship

- 9 – Communicating Your Mission with Clarity: Branding, Messaging, and Community Connection
- 10 – Counting What Counts: Goals, Metrics, and the Spirit’s Work
- 23 – From *Christian Worship* to *The Foundation*: Planning Smarter, Leading Better
- 25 – From Organic to Organized: How Leadership and Operations Must Evolve as Churches Grow
- 32 – Hope for the Challenged Church: Diagnosing Decline and Charting a Path Forward
- 34 – The Lawsuit You Didn’t See Coming: Building a Legally Resilient School
- 36 – Leading with Consensus in Your Church: From Votes to Voices
- 44 – Planning that Works: Strategic, Tactical, and Operational Planning
- 58 – Shadow of the Leader: Using the Culture Change Course Map
- 60 – Staffing for Mission: When to Add Staff and How to Choose the Right Role
- 61 – Unstuck: Breaking Growth Barriers with Courage, Clarity, and Calling
- 63 – Vision that Inspires Service: Communicating a Christ-Centered Future in Ways that Move God’s People to Action

SCHOOLS

Lutheran schools have historically been a major ministry strategy in our congregations. At all levels, Lutheran schools provide a daily connection to God’s Word, enabling our schools to shape children’s faith and open doors to families who might not otherwise encounter the gospel. But today’s school ministries face new challenges—rising costs, complex family dynamics, cultural pressures, and questions of sustainability. These breakouts help participants think strategically about how their schools can remain mission-driven, financially healthy, and deeply rooted in a Lutheran worldview.

- 4 – The Budget Is the Plan: Aligning Strategy, Spending, and Stewardship
- 5 – Building a Cohesive School Leadership Team: Leading Together in Lutheran Education
- 9 – Communicating Your Mission with Clarity: Branding, Messaging, and Community Connection
- 10 – Counting What Counts: Goals, Metrics, and the Spirit’s Work
- 14 – Faith Formation in Schools that Sticks: Building a Lutheran Worldview in the Next Generation
- 15 – Faithful and Funded: Rethinking How We Support Lutheran Schools
- 16 – The Family Altar: Empowering Homes as the Primary Place of Youth Discipleship
- 24 – From Enrollment to Engagement: Making Your School a True Evangelism Effort
- 27 – From Talk to Traction: Making All Ministry Teams More Effective
- 30 – The Great Commission in Lutheran Schools: Nurture, Outreach, and School Growth
- 34 – The Lawsuit You Didn’t See Coming: Building a Legally Resilient School
- 43 – Our Confessional Lutheran Identity: Doctrine, Practice, and a Distinct Gospel Witness
- 51 – Raising a Christ-Centered Child in a Me-Centered World: Practical Tools for Parents and Church Leaders
- 54 – Sacramental Identity for Today’s Church: Timeless Gifts for Our Time in History
- 60 – Staffing for Mission: When to Add Staff and How to Choose the Right Role
- 65 – Wired Differently: Understanding Personalities to Strengthen Ministry Teams

TEAMWORK/TEAM BUILDING

No congregation can carry out its mission through solo efforts. Ministry flourishes when God’s people—pastors, teachers, staff, and laity—work together as one body. But effective teamwork doesn’t happen automatically. It requires clarity of roles, healthy communication, mutual trust, and a shared vision. These breakouts provide tools to strengthen collaboration, resolve conflict, and cultivate a culture where leaders and members support one another in carrying out Christ’s mission. Whether you are part of a

large staff or a small group of volunteers, these sessions will help your ministry teams lead with unity and purpose.

- 1 – The Art of Listening and Asking Questions: Unlocking the Heart of Ministry
- 5 – Building a Cohesive School Leadership Team: Leading Together in Lutheran Education
- 7 – Clarifying Clergy and Lay Roles: Leading Together in the Life of the Church
- 9 – Communicating Your Mission with Clarity: Branding, Messaging, and Community Connection
- 13 – The Emotionally Intelligent Leader: Managing Yourself to Lead Others
- 18 – The Focus Tax: How Much Are You Paying?
- 25 – From Organic to Organized: How Leadership and Operations Must Evolve as Churches Grow
- 27 – From Talk to Traction: Making All Ministry Teams More Effective
- 36 – Leading with Consensus in Your Church: From Votes to Voices
- 49 – Problem-Solving as Christian Leadership: Balancing Faith, Wisdom, and Action
- 56 – Servant Leaders: Young Adults Modeling Christ's Way
- 58 – Shadow of the Leader: Using the Culture Change Course Map
- 60 – Staffing for Mission: When to Add Staff and How to Choose the Right Role
- 63 – Vision that Inspires Service: Communicating a Christ-Centered Future in Ways that Move God's People to Action
- 65 – Wired Differently: Understanding Personalities to Strengthen Ministry Teams

TECHNOLOGY

Technology is shaping the way people live, learn, and relate; the church cannot ignore its influence. Digital tools open doors for outreach and ministry efficiency, but they also bring risks of distraction, depersonalization, and shallow faith engagement. These breakouts help leaders discern how to use technology faithfully, keeping Christ at the center while navigating an increasingly digital world.

- 2 – Artificial Intelligence and the Church: Embracing Tools, Avoiding Traps
- 12 – Digital Outreach in a Post-Christian World: Supporting Relational Evangelism Without Replacing It
- 46 – The Porn Pandemic in Our Pews: How Pornography Is Quietly Discipling Our Members and What to Do About It
- 55 – Screens and Souls: Helping Members Understand the Spiritual Impact of Technology

UNIQUE TOPICS

Some issues facing our churches don't fit neatly into categories like planning or leadership. Yet they are very real in the lives of God's people and carry huge implications for ministry. This track lifts up breakouts that you might not expect at a leadership conference but that deal with pressing, sometimes sensitive realities in WELS. By naming these challenges directly, we can better equip our congregations to respond with biblical clarity and gospel hope.

- 2 – Artificial Intelligence and the Church: Embracing Tools, Avoiding Traps
- 28 – Gospel Conversations in the LGBTQ World: Meeting Impossible Standards with the Grace of Christ
- 34 – The Lawsuit You Didn't See Coming: Building a Legally Resilient School
- 39 – Ministering to Survivors of Sexual Abuse: Compassion, Care, and Christ
- 40 – Ministering to an Aging Congregation: A Golden Opportunity!
- 45 – Politics in the Pews: Living in Two Kingdoms
- 46 – The Porn Pandemic in Our Pews: How Pornography Is Quietly Discipling Our Members and What to Do About It

- 55 – Screens and Souls: Helping Members Understand the Spiritual Impact of Technology
- 68 – Your Church’s Story: Preserving History with Purpose.
- 69 – The Future of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod: One LCMS District President’s Perspective

VOCATION

Service to Christ is not the same as service of congregation. God calls his people into many stations in life—parent, neighbor, citizen, worker—and in these vocations we serve as his “masks,” bringing blessings to others through ordinary tasks. The Lutheran doctrine of vocation reminds us that our daily callings are holy too. These breakouts help participants to see the importance of encouraging members to embrace their vocations with joy.

- 16 – The Family Altar: Empowering Homes as the Primary Place of Youth Discipleship
- 41 – On the Clock, Still on Mission: Following Christ at Work
- 45 – Politics in the Pews: Living in Two Kingdoms
- 51 – Raising a Christ-Centered Child in a Me-Centered World: Practical Tools for Parents and Church Leaders
- 56 – Servant Leaders: Young Adults Modeling Christ’s Way
- 62 – Using Community Service to Maximize the Spread of the Gospel

VOLUNTEERISM

Many congregations struggle with the familiar pattern: a small percentage of people doing most of the work. Building a healthy culture of volunteerism is about more than filling slots. It’s about equipping and inspiring God’s people to see service as a joyful response to grace. These breakouts help participants learn some best practices for mobilizing members for meaningful service.

- 11 – Developing a Clear Path of Discipleship: A Proven Process for Congregational Membership and Leadership Development
- 21 – From 20/80 to 100 Percent: Breaking the Volunteer Bottleneck
- 27 – From Talk to Traction: Making All Ministry Teams More Effective
- 36 – Leading with Consensus in Your Church: From Votes to Voices
- 52 – Raising the Bar: A Culture of High Expectations for Discipleship
- 56 – Servant Leaders: Young Adults Modeling Christ’s Way
- 62 – Using Community Service to Maximize the Spread of the Gospel
- 63 – Vision that Inspires Service: Communicating a Christ-Centered Future in Ways that Move God’s People to Action

WORSHIP

At the heart of congregational life is worship—where God serves his people through Word and sacrament, and his people respond in praise and prayer. The worship service is where the largest percentage of members have their faith regularly fed. It is also often the first experience guests have with congregational ministry. These breakouts address both the theology and practice of Lutheran worship. Together they invite leaders to treasure Lutheran worship as both heritage and mission.

- 8 – Come and See: Planning Worship so Members Will Invite Guests
- 17 – Feedback and the Pulpit: Turning Polite Praise into Meaningful Insights
- 23 – From *Christian Worship* to *The Foundation*: Planning Smarter, Leading Better
- 38 – A Lutheran Lens on Modern Hymnody: Evaluating the Theology, Use, and Impact of Modern Hymns

43 – Our Confessional Lutheran Identity: Doctrine, Practice, and a Distinct Gospel Witness

54 – Sacramental Identity for Today's Church: Timeless Gifts for Our Time in History

WOMEN

Women serve in countless ways in the church. Yet across Christianity there is a concerning loss of young women from congregational life—a trend with serious long-term implications for discipleship, leadership, and future generations. These breakouts address the unique opportunities and challenges of ministering to women today, helping the church strengthen their faith, honor their gifts, and provide Christ-centered connection and support.

16 – The Family Altar: Empowering Homes as the Primary Place of Youth Discipleship

35 – Leadership as Influence: Shaping Culture and Lives Without a Title

47 – The Power of Deep Connection: Engaging Women by Design

51 – Raising a Christ-Centered Child in a Me-Centered World: Practical Tools for Parents and Church Leaders

65 – Wired Differently: Understanding Personalities to Strengthen Ministry Teams

66 – Women Teaching Women: From Learners to Leaders

67 – Young Women in WELS: Understanding the Crisis and Building Connections

YOUNG ADULTS

No demographic has slipped away from WELS in greater numbers than young adults. After confirmation or high school, many drift from the church. This loss has profound implications for the future of congregations, schools, and the synod as a whole. These breakouts explore how the church can reconnect with young adults, understand their unique questions and challenges, and create a culture where they find belonging and purpose. After all, this is the next generation of leadership.

19 – The Forgotten Generation: Ministering to Young Adults in Their 20s

28 – Gospel Conversations in the LGBTQ World: Meeting Impossible Standards with the Grace of Christ

31 – Hearing It Straight from Today's Youth: A Comprehensive Study of WELS Young People

46 – The Porn Pandemic in Our Pews: How Pornography Is Quietly Discipling Our Members and What to Do About It

50 – The Quiet Return: Gen Z Men's Renewed Interest in Christianity

56 – Servant Leaders: Young Adults Modeling Christ's Way

67 – Young Women in WELS: Understanding the Crisis and Building Connections

YOUTH/CHILDREN

Children are precious gifts God entrusts to his church. They need to be nurtured in the gospel in homes, congregations, and classrooms. These breakouts explore how churches, schools, and families can work together to form faith in children, give parents confidence in their role as disciplers, and create ministries where young people are supported, encouraged, and rooted in Christ.

14 – Faith Formation in Schools that Sticks: Building a Lutheran Worldview in the Next Generation

16 – The Family Altar: Empowering Homes as the Primary Place of Youth Discipleship

31 – Hearing It Straight from Today's Youth: A Comprehensive Study of WELS Young People

51 – Raising a Christ-Centered Child in a Me-Centered World: Practical Tools for Parents and Church Leaders